

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA**DOCKETING DEPARTMENT****NOTICE OF FILING AND HEARING****DOCKET NO. 2017-228-S****APPLICATION OF PALMETTO UTILITIES, INC. FOR ADJUSTMENT OF RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE PROVISION OF SEWER SERVICE IN THE PALMETTO UTILITIES AND PALMETTO OF RICHLAND COUNTY SERVICE AREAS, CONSOLIDATION OF EXISTING RATE SCHEDULES INTO A SINGLE RATE SCHEDULE, AND MODIFICATIONS TO CERTAIN TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE PROVISION OF SERVICE**

Palmetto Utilities, Inc. (the Company) has filed an Application with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) for an adjustment of the Company's rates and charges for the provision of sewer service, consolidation of the rate schedule applicable to customers in the Palmetto of Richland County portion of its service territory into the rate schedule applicable to customers in the Palmetto Utilities portion of its service territory, and modifications to certain terms and conditions of the provision of its service. The Company is a public utility, as defined by S.C. Code Ann. § 58-5-10(3) (2015), providing sewer service to the public for compensation in certain areas of South Carolina pursuant to rates set by the Commission in Docket No. 2013-42-S (Palmetto Utilities) and established by the Commission in Docket No. 2012-73-S (Palmetto of Richland County).

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-5-240, the Company requests that the Commission approve an adjustment in its monthly sewer service rates for all customers and the adoption of certain other non-recurring charges for customers in the Palmetto of Richland County portion of its service area. In support of its request for this adjustment, the Company asserts, among other things, that the proposed sewer rate increases are necessary in order that it may provide reasonable and adequate service to its customers, allow the Company to recover its increased expenses of operation, comply with environmental regulations, and earn a reasonable return on its investment, which includes significant recent capital improvements. The Company also asserts that the proposed sewer rate increase is necessary to preserve its financial integrity and to permit continued investment in and maintenance of its facilities so as to provide reliable and high quality services. Pursuant to 10 S.C. Code Ann. Reg. 103-512.4.A, the Company also seeks modifications to the rate design to be applied to customers in the Palmetto of Richland County portion of its service territory such that sewer service will be billed at a flat rate, as opposed to a rate based on water consumption, and the reflection of commercial rates based upon single family equivalency ratings. According to the Company, the result of these modifications will be uniform rates and terms and conditions of service for all customers served by the Company's Palmetto Utilities and Palmetto of Richland County wastewater systems. Further, the Company proposes a modification to the rate schedule to make clear that all residential customer rates are billed at the proposed rate regardless of equivalency rating.

**THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES ARE SET FORTH
BELOW**

(The complete rate schedule is available from the Company at the address below and on the Commission's website at www.psc.sc.gov)

Palmetto Utilities Residential Monthly Charges	Current	Proposed
Residential monthly charge Per single-family house, condominium, villa, or apartment unit	\$36.50	\$68.05

Palmetto of Richland County Residential Monthly Charges	Current	Proposed
Residential monthly charge Per single-family house, condominium, villa, or apartment unit	\$10.20 minimum base fee plus \$4.93 per 100 cu. ft. of water consumed	\$68.05

Palmetto Utilities Commercial Customers Monthly Charges	Current	Proposed
Per Single Family Equivalent* Minimum**	\$36.50	\$68.05*

Palmetto of Richland County Commercial Customer Monthly Charges	Current	Proposed
Per Single Family Equivalent* Minimum**	\$10.20 minimum base fee plus \$4.93 per 100 cu. ft. of water consumed	\$68.05*

THE COMPANY STATES IN ITS APPLICATION THAT IT WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER A PHASE-IN OF APPROVED ADDITIONAL ANNUAL REVENUE OVER SOME PERIOD OF TIME TO LIMIT THE IMMEDIATE IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED RATE ADJUSTMENT.

*Charges for commercial establishments served by the Company are based upon single family equivalency (SFE) ratings set using wastewater treatment plant capacity design loading factors established in 6 S.C. Code Regs. 61-67, Appendix A (Supp. 2016).

**All commercial customers will pay based on a minimum SFE rating of one (1). Some commercial customers will have minimum SFE ratings greater than one (1). The commercial customer SFE ratings are set out below:

<u>Type of Establishment</u>	<u>Loading Factor</u>	<u>Hydraulic Loading (GPD)</u>	<u>SFE rating per loading factor</u>
A. Airport:			
1.	Per Employee	8	0.0267
2.	Per Passenger	4	0.0134
B. Apartments, Condominiums, Patio Homes:			
1.	Three (3) Bedrooms (Per Unit)	300	1.0
2.	Two (2) Bedrooms (Per Unit)	225	1.0
3.	One (1) Bedroom (Per Unit)	150	1.0
C. Assembly Halls:	(Per Seat)	4	0.0134
D. Barber Shop:			
1.	Per Employee	8	0.0267
2.	Per Chair	75	0.25

E.	Bars, Taverns:			
	1.	Per Employee	8	0.0267
	2.	Per Seat, Excluding Restaurant	30	0.10
F.	Beauty Shop:			
	1.	Per Employee	8	0.0267
	2.	Per Chair	94	0.3134
G.	Boarding House, Dormitory:	Per Resident	38	0.1267
H.	Bowling Alley:			
	1.	Per Employee	8	0.0267
	2.	Per Lane, No Restaurant, Bar or Lounge	94	0.3134
I.	Camps:			
	1.	Resort, Luxury (Per Person)	75	0.25
	2.	Summer (Per Person)	38	0.1267
	3.	Day, with Central Bathhouse (Per Person)	26	0.0867
	4.	Travel Trailer (Per Site)	131	0.4367
J.	Car Wash:	(Per Car Washed)	56	0.1867
K.	Churches:	(Per Seat)	2	0.0067
L.	Clinics, Doctor's Office:			
	1.	Per Employee	11	0.0367
	2.	Per Patient	4	0.0134
M.	Country Club, Fitness Center, Spa:	(Per Member)	38	0.1267
N.	Dentist Office:			
	1.	Per Employee	11	0.0367
	2.	Per Chair	6	0.02
	3.	Per Suction Unit; Standard Unit	278	0.9267
	4.	Per Suction Unit; Recycling Unit	71	0.2367
	5.	Per Suction Unit; Air Generated Unit	0	0.0
O.	Factories, Industries:			
	1.	Per Employee	19	0.0634
	2.	Per Employee, with Showers	26	0.0867
	3.	Per Employee, with Kitchen	30	0.10
	4.	Per Employee, with Showers and Kitchen	34	0.1134
P.	Fairgrounds:	(Average Attendance, Per Person)	4	0.0134
Q.	Grocery Stores:	(Per person, No Restaurant or food Preparation)	19	0.0634
R.	Hospitals:			
	1.	Per Resident Staff	75	0.25
	2.	Per Bed	150	0.50
S.	Hotels:	(Per Bedroom, No Restaurant)	75	0.25
T.	Institutions:	(Per Resident)	75	0.25
U.	Laundries:	(Self Service, Per Machine)	300	1.0
V.	Marinas:	(Per Slip)	23	0.0767
W.	Mobile Homes:	(Per Unit)	225	0.75
X.	Motels:	(Per Unit, No Restaurant)	75	0.25
Y.	Nursing Homes:			
	1.	Per Bed	75	0.25
	2.	Per Bed, with Laundry	113	0.3767
Z.	Offices, Small Stores, Business, Administration Buildings:	(Per Person, No Restaurant)	19	0.0634
AA.	Picnic Parks:	(Average Attendance, Per Person)	8	0.0267
BB.	Prison/Jail:			
	1.	Per Employee	11	0.0367
	2.	Per Inmate	94	0.3134
CC.	Residences:	(Per House, Unit)	300	1.0
DD.	Rest Areas, Welcome Centers:			
	1.	Per Person	4	0.0134
	2.	Per Person, with Showers	8	0.0267
EE.	Rest Homes:			

	1.	Per Bed	75	0.25
	2.	Per Bed, with Laundry	113	0.3767
FF.	Restaurants:			
	1.	Fast Food Type, Not Twenty Four (24) Hours (Per Seat)	30	0.10
	2.	Twenty Four (24) Hour Restaurant (Per Seat)	53	0.1767
	3.	Drive In (Per Car Service space)	30	0.10
	4.	Vending Machine, Walk up Deli (Per Person)	30	0.10
GG.	Schools, Day Care:			
	1.	Per Person	8	0.0267
	2.	Per Person, with Cafeteria	11	0.0367
	3.	Per Person, with Cafeteria, Gym and Showers	15	0.05
HH.	Service Stations:			
	1.	Per Employee	8	0.0267
	2.	Per Car Served	8	0.0267
	3.	Car Wash (Per Car Washed)	56	0.1867
II.	Shopping Centers, Large Department Stores, Malls:	(Per Person, No Restaurant)	19	0.0634
JJ.	Stadiums, Coliseums:	(Per Seat, No Restaurant)	4	0.0134
KK.	Swimming Pools:	(Per Person, with Sewer Facilities and Showers)	8	0.0267
LL.	Theaters:	Indoor (Per Seat), Drive In (Per Stall)	4	0.0134

A copy of the Company's Application can be obtained from the Commission at the following address: Public Service Commission of South Carolina, Docketing Department, P. O. Drawer 11649, Columbia, South Carolina 29211. Additionally, the Company's Application is available on the Commission's website at www.psc.sc.gov.

In order for testimony and evidence to be received from all interested parties, a public hearing will be held in the Commission's Hearing Room, Synergy Business Park, 101 Executive Center Dr., Columbia, South Carolina on _____.

Any person who wishes to participate in this matter, as a party of record with the right of cross-examination should file a Petition to Intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, on or before _____, and indicate the amount of time required for his presentation. Please include an email address for receipt of future Commission correspondence in the Petition to Intervene. ***Please refer to Docket No. 2017-228-S.***

Any person who wishes to testify and present evidence at the hearing should notify the Docketing Department, in writing, at the address below, the Office of Regulatory Staff, 1401 Main Street, Suite 900, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, and John M. S. Hoefer, Esquire, Willoughby & Hoefer, P.A., Post Office Box 8416, Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8416 on or before _____, and indicate the amount of time required for the presentation. ***Please refer to Docket No. 2017-228-S.***

Any person who wishes to request a hearing in his or her county of residence should notify on or before _____, in writing, the Commission's Docketing Department at the address below, the Office of Regulatory Staff, 1401 Main Street, Suite 900, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, and John M. S. Hoefer, Esquire, Willoughby & Hoefer, P. A., Post Office Box 8416, Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8416. *Please refer to Docket No. 2017-228-S.*

Any person who wishes to be notified of any change in the hearing date, but does not wish to present testimony or be a party of record, may do so by notifying the Docketing Department in writing at the address below on or before _____. ***Please refer to Docket No. 2017-228-S.***

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: Any person who wishes to have his or her comments considered as part of the official record of this proceeding **MUST** present such comments, in person, to the Commission during the hearing.

Persons seeking information about the Commission's Procedures should contact the Commission in Columbia at 803-896-5100.

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Attn: Docketing Department
Post Office Drawer 11649
Columbia, SC 29211

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